

Appl. No. : 09/865,037
Filed : October 1, 2001

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for his examination of the present application. By way of summary, Claims 1-19 and 26-40 were pending in this application and Claims 20-25 were withdrawn. In the Office Action mailed May 3, 2006, the Examiner allowed Claims 1-10, 15, and 40, and rejected Claims 11-14, 16-19, and 26-39. In particular, the Examiner rejected Claims 11-14, 16-19, and 26-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,786,857 to Yamaguchi ("Yamaguchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,081,211 to de Queiroz ("de Queiroz") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,118,890 to Senior ("Senior").

This Amendment cancels Claims 11-14 and 16-39 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add Claims 41-54. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuation application or other application. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-10, 15, and 40-54 remain pending.

A. ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS 1-10, 15, AND 40

The Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-10, 15, and 40. Accordingly, Applicants request that Claims 1-10, 15, and 40 be passed to allowance.

B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11-14, 16-19, AND 26-39 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 11-14, 16-19, and 26-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,786,857 to Yamaguchi ("Yamaguchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,081,211 to de Queiroz ("de Queiroz") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,118,890 to Senior ("Senior"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and reserve the right to respond to the Examiner's rejection in a continuation application or other application.

Applicants have canceled Claims 11-14, 16-19, and 26-39 without prejudice or disclaimer, thus mooted this rejection of these claims.

C. COMMENTS REGARDING THE "RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS"

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's responses and reserve the right to respond to the Examiner's responses in a continuation application or other application.

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D. CANCELLATION OF CLAIMS 20-25

Applicants have previously withdrawn Claims 20-25 without prejudice or disclaimer and have now cancelled Claims 20-25 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuation application.

E. NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 41-54 have been added to more fully define the Applicants' invention and are believed to be fully distinguished over the prior art of record.

Claims 41-42 and 53 depend from and include all of the limitations of allowed Claim 15. Accordingly, Claims 41-42 are believed to be patentable for the same reasons as allowed Claim 15 and because of the additional limitations set forth therein.

Claims 43-51 and 54 depend from and include all of the limitations of allowed Claim 40. Accordingly, Claims 43-51 and 54 are believed to be patentable for the same reasons as allowed Claim 40 and because of the additional limitations set forth therein.

Claim 52 depends from and includes all of the limitations of allowed Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 52 is believed to be patentable for the same reasons as allowed Claim 1 and because of the additional limitations set forth therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass Claims 41-54 to allowance.

E. REQUEST FOR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 713.01, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants' undersigned attorney of record hereby formally requests a telephone interview with the Examiner as soon as the Examiner has considered the effect of the arguments presented above. Applicants' attorney can be reached at (949) 721-7603 or at the number listed below.

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F. CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that any remaining issues may be promptly resolved. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 30, 2006

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